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20. (Amended) The polymer according to Claim 2, wherein the polymer comprises from 0.5 to 10 wt.-% of cyclodextrins, and/or cyclodextrin derivatives relative to the weight of the polymer.

Please add New Claim 22 as follows:

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22. (New) A method of stabilizing an active substance, comprising absorbing the active substance with the polymer according to Claim 1.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The amendments to the claims clarify the claim language, and correct minor typographical errors. No new matter is believed to be added by entry of these amendments. Claims 1-22 are active.

REMARKS

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101 and 112, second paragraph are respectfully traversed in part, and obviated by appropriate amendment in part.

Claim 1 has been amended to replace the term "based on" with "prepared by polymerizing."

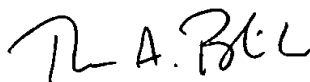
Applicants note that the third paragraph at page 6 of the specification explicitly states that the polymers of the present invention "have cyclodextrins *and/or* derivatives thereof bound ionically and/or covalently and/or incorporated therein" (emphasis added). Thus, the specification does describe polymers having both cyclodextrins *and* derivatives thereof present in the polymer.

Claims 16-18 have been amended to recite methods for absorbing aqueous fluids and releasing active substances, and recite at least one process step.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request withdraw of the rejections. Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and early notification thereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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✓ **IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An absorbent polymer [based on] prepared by polymerizing optionally partially neutralized, monoethylenically unsaturated monomers bearing acid groups, the surface of which polymer has been subjected to secondary crosslinking subsequent to polymerizing, wherein the polymer has cyclodextrins and/or cyclodextrin derivatives bound covalently and/or [tonically] ionically and/or incorporated therein.
2. (Twice Amended) The polymer according to claim 1, wherein the polymer includes from 0.01 to 50 wt.-% of cyclodextrins and/or cyclodextrin derivatives, relative to the weight of the polymer.
5. (Twice Amended) The polymer according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer is [constituted] prepared by polymerizing up to 40 wt.-% of monoethylenically unsaturated monomers other than the monomers bearing acid groups.
8. (Twice Amended) The polymer according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer has been subjected to surface crosslinking using from 0.1 to 10 wt.-%, relative to the weight of the polymer, of a crosslinker component.
11. (Twice Amended) The polymer according to Claim 1, wherein the cyclodextrins or cyclodextrin derivatives are [tonically] ionically bound to the polymer via carboxylate, sulfate, sulfonate, or quaternary amino groups.
16. (Twice Amended) [Use of the] A method for absorbing aqueous fluids, wherein

the fluids are absorbed by polymers according to [a] Claim 1 [as an absorbent for aqueous liquids, preferably in absorbing body fluids, in optionally foamed sheet materials, in packaging materials, in plant breeding, and as soil improver].

17. (Twice Amended) The [use of polymers] method according to claim 16, wherein [in] the polymers are in hygiene articles.

18. (Twice Amended) A method for releasing an active substance, wherein [Use of] the active substance is absorbed into a polymer[s] according to Claim 1, and then released from the polymer [as a vehicle and/or stabilizer for active substances or fertilizers being released optionally in a delayed fashion].

19. (Amended) The polymer according to Claim 2, wherein the polymer comprises from 0.1 to of cyclodextrins, and/or cyclodextrin derivatives relative to the weight of the polymer.

20 (Amended) The polymer according to Claim 2, wherein the polymer comprises from 0.5 to 10 wt.-% of cyclodextrins, and/or cyclodextrin derivatives relative to the weight of the polymer.

22. (New)